

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed concurrently with a Request for Continued Examination being filed herewith in a separate paper. Upon entry of the attached amendment, Claims 6-22 will be pending in this application for the Examiner's review and consideration. Claims 1-5 were canceled in this amendment. Claims 6 and 12 were amended to delete the limitation "a time lag between ejecting of the black ink and ejecting of the color ink is 20 ms or less" and add the limitation "the printed amount of the color ink to form the black image portion is in a range of 10 to 50 % relative to the amount of black ink." Support for this amendment can be found in the specification at page 28, lines 1-7. New claims 19 and 20 were added to depend from claims amended 6 and 12, respectively, and to add the limitation that "the amount of one droplet of the black ink expelled is more than zero and less than 20 ng and the amount of one droplet of the color ink expelled is more than zero and less than 7 ng." Support can be found on page 27, lines 18-25. New claims 21 and 22 were added to depend from amended claims 6 and 12, respectively, and to add the limitation that was deleted in the amendment to claims 6 and 12, *i.e.*, "a time lag between ejecting of the black ink and ejecting of the color ink is 20 ms or less."

Applicants appreciate Examiner's participation in the Interview on August 23, 2005. In accordance with the Examiner's comments in the Interview and in the Advisory Action dated July 28, 2005, Applicants have canceled claims 1-5 of the present invention. Also, in accordance with the comments in the Interview, Applicants have amended claims 6 and 12 to delete the limitation regarding "a time lag between ejecting of the black ink and ejecting of the color ink is 20 ms or less" and add the limitation that "the printed amount of the color ink to form the black image portion is in a range of 10 to 50 % relative to the amount of black ink." The amendment of claims 6 and 12 to include this additional limitation should further distinguish the claims from Takada and, in the case of claim 6, Wickramanayake. Both Takada and Wickramanyake are silent as to a printed amount of the color ink to form the black image portion being in a range of 10 to 50 % relative to the amount of black ink.

We also note that neither Takada nor Wickranayake teaches or suggests the critical limitation in claims 6 and 12 of forming a black image portion in a color image with the black ink and the color ink. Neither of these references teaches applying the black ink over the color ink or the color ink over the black ink to form a black image with high image quality. Takada rather discloses an aqueous ink

which exhibits characteristics based on cationic self-dispersing carbon black in which bleeding between anionic color ink and aqueous ink is reduced.

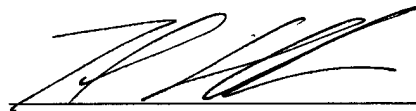
Applicant respectfully invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned at (202) 739-5602 if there are any outstanding issues that can be resolved via a telephone conference.

CONCLUSIONS

It is respectfully submitted that all claims are now in condition for allowance, early notice of which would be appreciated. Should the Examiner disagree, Applicants respectfully request a telephonic or in-person interview with the undersigned attorney to discuss any remaining issues and to expedite the eventual allowance of the claims.

No additional fees are believed to be required for this submission. Should any fees be required, however, please charge those fees to Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP deposit account no. 50-0310.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark J. Sullivan Reg. No. 54,478

Date: September 1, 2005

Customer No.: 009629

MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP
1111 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004
Telephone: (202) 739-3000
Facsimile: (202) 739-3001